



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

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## New paradigm for economy and civilization



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

We in the United States no longer live in a society based on integrity. We have established an elaborate set of rules and consequences which promote greed, ruthlessness and cunning, and discount the human values that promote cooperation and reconciliation.

As problems in the Middle East spread and become more intractable, as we in the United States seem content to stand pat with a mass killing every day, I'm listening hard for what we can do to effect positive change.

The voice of Peter Yarrow rang out at a celebration of The Ark's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

sary year this July. Elaborating on the theme of being the change you want to see in the world, he urged that we as individuals develop deep compassion.

This resonated with a statement I'd heard earlier in the week from Professor Mohammed Yunus – winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Grameen Bank – that people are tiring of the money-focused economy dominating the world. He further predicted that our future economy will be two-pronged. One prong will be the status quo – with making as much money as possible being the bottom line – and social enterprises will comprise the other prong. In social enterprises, doing as much good as possible while generating enough income to stay afloat is the measure of success.

Sister Simone Campbell (of Nuns on the Bus fame) also addressed the topic of economy and satisfaction at the 2015 RESULTS International Conference, held in July in Washington, D.C., which featured Professor Yunus. She set up a visual demonstration of the extent of wage inequality in the United States and how it has grown in the last 30 years as a result of changes in tax laws. In that period the bottom quintile has actually lost seven percent of its purchasing power while the top quintile increased

the purchasing power of its salaries by 50 percent.

More interesting, however, is the correlation between income and stress. The most stressed group is the fourth quintile – those families working multiple jobs to avoid falling into poverty. The second-most stressed group was the bottom 95 percent of the top five percent of the top quartile – these are six- and seven-figure earners whose buying power has grown by more than 73 percent. So why were they stressed? Because they were spending themselves into debt so they could live like the top one percent, whose incomes have increased by 224 percent.

This ridiculous behavior made more sense in light of another story Sister Simone told. Speaking with a group of corporate CEOs whose average salary was \$10 million and slated to rise the following year to \$11 million, Sister Simone asked, "So, were you having trouble getting by on \$10 million?"

The response was that it had nothing to do with the money; it was all about winning. The CEOs were very competitive and the definition of winning in the corporate world is having the highest salary. To prove they are the best, they have to get their company to pay them

more than other CEOs. My suspicion is that those stressed 95-percenters don't want to appear to be losers.

Professor Yunus related an interesting and applicable parable. If you place a frog in a pan of boiling water, he will immediately hop out. However, if you place him in cool water that gradually gets warmer, the frog cooks.

No one would champion our current tax system and few would approve of the great wage gap and even more staggeringly large wealth gap if we were creating our economy from scratch. But as we acclimate to each new danger, we get a little bit closer to cooked.

Members of Congress from all parties have been calling for comprehensive tax reform but, to date, no serious action has been taken. Western Washtenaw Congressman Tim Walberg favors eliminating all current taxes and replacing them with a hefty tax on new purchases. So, the buyer of a used home or car would pay no tax while those who bought a new one would be taxed heavily. Guess which special interests will fight this tooth and nail?

Every proposed reform contains elements that disadvantage some group. Until we re-shape our thinking we'll dawdle in the increasingly warm water.

### GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## We all live in "gated communities"

by James Hutson, CFLE-P  
Groundcover Contributor

Neighbors oppose an emergency access drive for a proposed Ann Arbor-Saline Road condo development, stated an Ann Arbor News MLive post.

Apparently, a 75-unit condo building is proposed for a 5.3-acre vacant site adjacent to an established community and they seek a second access point for safety. According to the article, the City planning commissioners and some residents of the adjacent community questioned the idea of having gates at all, suggesting gated communities imply elitism and are not very "Ann Arbor."

I would challenge that. You don't have to have physical gates to have elitism... and unfortunately, that is regardless of zip code.

We don't spend time to know the person anymore. We allow perceptions to divine who we think someone else is. Ethnic, cultural, visual or implied characteristics or traits tell us who we are dealing with, whom we can trust

and what value they have to us.

Having spent the last four years in academic pursuits, I have intimate knowledge of identity-building – personally, professionally, and socially. It is very easy to create an identity for our use; we often have several "faces" we present to the world in different roles we play.

That is not a danger in and of itself.

The danger lies in the center – that self that is us regardless of role or circumstance or perception. If we define who we are at the core as dependent on our circumstances or failures in this life, the core is unstable, corrupted and feeds that disharmony into our "faces." We become those anti-social, unhappy, zealous and "PC"-demanding people who are making the headlines today.

There are others who allow their identity to rest in the hands of their Creator. God tells me that I am loved, valued, blessed and gifted with ability to affect my world and those with whom I come into contact in my various "faces" of man, father, brother, professional, and leader.

This defies my circumstances. I am poor, struggling with financial stability and even with professional achievement. I live in a manufactured home community. I am unemployed. I am a 47-year-old who just got a Bachelor of Arts degree. I'm a big man – in size, in stature and in voice.

All lives matter, not just our own. Every human has value, not just what is perceived. Everyone has the right to be loved, no matter how difficult. Yet the world is exploding with divisive and alienating accusations rather than resounding with the loudness of diverse acceptance of each other and the intrinsic value of our humanity.

I think there are "gated communities" throughout our "enlightened" society. We don't actually celebrate diversity but we have gates, metaphorical and otherwise, surrounding ourselves and those like us.

It doesn't have to be physical to be real. And it can't be legislated away.

## The gift of another's hands



by Rev. Dr. Martha  
Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

Some stories remain with us for years or even decades. Others are ours for a lifetime. I read one of my for-a-lifetime stories several decades ago in a denominational publication.

The story is about two young boys, Jimmy and Tom, whose mothers both make homemade bread that their families love. Eventually, Jimmy's dad buys his mom a bread-making machine. The next time Tom is at Jimmy's for a sleepover, breakfast in the morning features, as always, a loaf of fresh, homemade bread. The bread in question is Tom's first taste of bread from the new bread-making machine.

When Tom returns home, his mom asks, as she often has in the past, "What kind of bread did Jimmy's mom make?" "Whole wheat raisin," Jimmy replies.

She adds, "So, how's the bread making machine?" After a pause, Jimmy quietly says, "It's okay, but I can't taste her hands on the bread made in the machine." Then and now, in an age of gift cards, electronic greetings, and labor-saving devices, there is the lost power of tasting, feeling, sensing the hands of another on whatever we receive.

When my girls were still at home and growing up, we had terrific homemade birthday parties. Each one was organized around a theme like poetry, buttons, snow, art, the circus or recycling. I reveled then in taking the time to make the cake and the frosting from scratch for each one of those celebrations. My

younger daughter Molly was in her last years of elementary school when she explained to one of her friends that the cake and the frosting were made from scratch. Her friend turned to her and asked, "What's that?" Overhearing them, it was hard for me to imagine not knowing what "from scratch" means, let alone never having tasted what "from scratch" is all about.

It's the end of a hot summer day as I sit and write this column. Despite the heat, I have within easy reach a beautiful neck wrap just finished by my friend Becky, who loves to knit. The yarn from which it's made came from Bumblebee Acres Farm via a local farmer's market. The farm's tagline is "fleece to yarn." I bought the wool from those who raised the sheep, and spun and dyed the yarn before it ended up in Becky's hands and on her needles. When I place it around my neck, even in this heat, I feel so connected to people I know by sight and conversation at the market and to Becky who knits beautiful things for her circle of friends.

Copies of Groundcover News pass from the hand of the vendor to the reader. Copies of Groundcover News are filled with stories, columns and reports from the hands and hearts of a number of us. One of the many gifts of the paper is that we offer it directly from one life to another, from one life to many others, always building a larger and larger community of connection with those we know by sight, by conversation and by the exchange of gift. What a precious opportunity that is! I am so glad that our hands are imprinted on each issue of the paper.



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## Road tax defeated

The proposed road tax increase was soundly defeated in a statewide special election in May. Though the business community would ultimately benefit from road improvement, their lobbyists remain strongly anti-tax. Current GOP beliefs stress downsizing public facilities such as roads and schools. The enactment of these policies would impoverish our collective future. The roads do need fixing but the cost of it should be assessed to determine those who benefit the most.

Paul Lamberts



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## ENPACT makes an impact

by Francesca Lupia  
Groundcover Contributor

It's a tough and timely question: what is the appropriate role of law enforcement within America's communities? In a year of nationwide debate about police power (and abuses thereof), this topic has grown more complex than ever. For Pierre Rice, though, some answers seemed clear.

"We need to have law enforcement officers living in the communities they're policing," the Ypsilanti educator declared to 29 fellow Washtenaw County residents, who gathered at Eastern Michigan University for the Enhancing Police and Community Trust (ENPACT) workshop on August 22. "If an officer can say, 'My community over here is great,' they'll hold themselves to a different level of accountability. If they know their community, they'll be able to engage community members and really make an impact."

Unbeknownst to Rice, a very similar conversation had just taken place just down the hall, where 30 law enforcement officers from across the county had gathered to address the same questions.

"A lot of civilians think that officers need to be living in the neighborhoods [they police], but I disagree," stated Ann Arbor Police Department Officer Jeff Ford. "If I live in Detroit but work in Ann Arbor, and I die in the line of duty, what have I done for the citizens of Detroit? I'm working for the citizens of Ann Arbor, even if I don't live there."

ENPACT's format is simple but distinctive. Each workshop brings together 30 law enforcement professionals and 30 civilians (a number chosen to ensure that each person has the chance to speak). After a brief introduction to the event, community members and officers separate into different rooms and form discussion groups of six to eight people. Each group is given the same set of questions, which they discuss before sending a representative to "report out" results to the rest of the room. In both rooms, facilitators Jerry Clayton (the Washtenaw County Sheriff) and Derrick Jackson (Director of Community Engagement at the Sheriff's Office and ENPACT coordinator) presided over the discussions, asking guiding questions and ensuring that debate stayed respectful.

During the first half of the workshop – the second one coordinated this year by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office – the simultaneous but separate conversations often paralleled each other. Civilians and officers sometimes differed in opinion, occasionally on a deeper level than the "difference in language"



Ypsilanti Police Chief Tony DeGiusti (center) and other law enforcement officers listen as facilitator Sheriff Jerry Clayton addresses their discussion group.

that Jackson says can separate the two groups. But during the three hours of small-group discussion, common themes and goals were abundant. Both civilians and law enforcement officers stated that they expect to be treated with respect and dignity. Both sides want to be viewed as individuals and human beings. Both sides believe that open communication, active engagement, and personal accountability are essential to building a healthy partnership between officers and the communities they police.

"I think it's important to start like that," reflected Brandon Robinson of Ypsilanti, who attended the first ENPACT meeting. "Both sides can voice their opinions in their own comfort zones and be emboldened to speak their minds before coming together."

After three hours of small-group discussion, the 60 participants reconvene for a "working lunch," during which civilians and officers are encouraged to sit together and discuss ideas from the morning session.

The workshop's second half once again breaks participants into small focus groups. This time, though, officers and civilians sit together, brainstorming collaborative solutions for improving police-community relations.

The first ENPACT meeting took place in April, and was similar in content and structure to the August 22 event. Clayton and Jackson have planned two more ENPACT workshops for the upcoming year (one, scheduled for early 2016, focused on youth and policing, and a later event surrounding the use of body cameras). They hope to make ENPACT a quarterly occurrence.

The program's goal, Clayton explained, is twofold: allowing civilians and police to voice their opinions, and then

working from common goals to plan tangible solutions. "I've seen so many community meetings accomplish nothing," he reflected. "If you just have a community member saying, 'The police did X, Y, and Z,' and the police officers responding to defend themselves, you don't move beyond the initial problem."

Keith Jason of the Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Board, who served on the event's planning committee, agreed. "You can have meetings all day, but without direct action, it's just hot air. ENPACT helps create real solutions."

Civilian participants at the August 22 workshop ran the gamut, varying widely in age, race, background, and perspective on law enforcement. When the civilians were asked to rate the current state of community-police relations in Washtenaw County, answers ranged from a pessimistic 3 to an enthusiastic 10. Florence Roberson of Ypsilanti reflected, "How you're treated depends on where you're at."

"Where you're at," Roberson noted, refers both to personal background (race, class, etc.) and geographic location. Indeed, many participants agreed that law enforcement and community conditions vary significantly in different parts of the county.

When asked for their expectations of law enforcement officers, participants agreed that understanding each community's unique needs is paramount for effective policing. "You can't have everyone's first interaction with an officer be a negative one," said Pierre Rice. "We should have officers coming to community events, getting to know people." Other suggestions included thorough sensitivity and bias mitigation training, a smoother process for filing complaints, and involving citizens in officer screening and hiring.

The law enforcement officers in attendance also represented diverse communities within Washtenaw County. Attendees included Ypsilanti Police Chief Tony DeGiusti, University of Michigan Police Department Chief Robert Neumann, and officers from the Michigan State Police, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Chelsea, Pittsfield, and the EMU and U-M police departments.

The officers agreed on the importance of understanding the communities they serve. "If we only do enforcement, and not engagement, we can forget that the majority of people in any neighborhood are good people," Sheriff Clayton reminded the group. "We can't let a few people shape our perception of the community. How do we combat that but through engagement?"

The theme of being seen as individuals, as more than "the badge," emerged frequently among the officers. "I don't want to go to a crime scene and immediately be perceived as above other people," shared Washtenaw County Deputy Chad Teets.

EMU Lieutenant Daniel Karrick added: "We can't expect the public to trust us blindly. That trust has to be earned."

The afternoon's collaborative session resulted in significant consensus. Opinions that won praise from both sides included a suggestion from Washtenaw County Officer Eric Waddell to "bring back the beat cop." "Old-school police officers would walk the streets," Waddell explained to applause. "Your first interaction with an officer was not law enforcement – it was an interaction, an exchange of ideas. And that's how it should be."

Despite the wide variety of experiences and opinions at play, tension never climbed out of control. La'Ron Williams of Ann Arbor noted the marked power imbalance between civilians and police, and questioned how much action is actually being taken to ensure fair policing. "For whom is this conversation not happening?" he asked. "Are they really engaging in this discussion among the rank and file?"

"I'm committed to building a culture where engagement is important," replied the Sheriff. "We're farther along than most, but we still aren't where we need to be."

When dealing with such a complicated issue, six hours of discussion seems barely sufficient to scratch the surface. A higher degree of specificity and focus, Clayton opined, is necessary in order to take more concrete action.

see ENPACT, page 10



# Cleaning up credit and dealing with debt collectors



by Angie Martell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

Good credit can serve an important role in your financial life and your credit history can be the foundation of financial stability. Good credit is often essential for things like qualifying for a loan or getting a credit card, but it is also essential for less obvious things like getting an apartment, telephone service, electrical service, opening a bank account, or even getting a job.

Credit reports often track not only credit card transactions but also track information used by landlords, employers, insurers and educational institutions. So, it is imperative that you do an annual cleaning of your credit report – that means getting rid of inaccurate or outdated information and fixing anything that is not correct.

There are three major credit reporting companies: Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. You are entitled by law to one free copy from each reporting agency every 12 months. You should order a report from all three agencies. Staggering the timing on ordering these reports, say every four months, makes sense so that you are within the 12-month period and are monitoring your credit report regularly.

You can get a free credit report from Experian, Equifax, or Transunion three ways:

- Access it online at [www.Annual-CreditReport.com](http://www.Annual-CreditReport.com).
- Call 877-322-8228.
- Mail a request to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Information on your credit report can remain a long time, and includes:

- Derogatory/Negative information – remains on-record for 7 years (this includes late payments, unpaid debts, charge-offs, accounts sent to collections and judgments against you).
- Bankruptcies – 10 years.
- Foreclosures – 7 years.
- Federal Student Loans – typically, 7 years from the date it was reported to the credit agency, the date that the Department of Education took

over the loan, or the date you went into default again.

- Paid Tax Liens – 7 years. Unpaid Tax liens can remain on your credit report indefinitely.

## Protecting your identity

If your identity has been stolen or someone is using your identification to obtain credit in your name, send a certified letter to the credit agencies explaining which accounts were fraudulently opened and request that they put a fraud statement in your file. Write to the creditors that opened accounts and explain that someone is illegally using your I.D. to obtain credit. They will send you an “Affidavit of Forgery” which you must complete so that they can open an investigation.

Report any and all fraud to an appropriate government agency, such as the police, Federal Trade Commission, FBI, Internal Revenue Service or Social Security Administration. Contact your credit grantors and financial institutions. Contact companies with whom you have financial relationships and inform them that that your accounts may have been compromised.

Keep your children’s social security numbers in a safe place and be aware that scammers have used children’s and deceased persons’ I.D.s to obtain credit.

## Stopping debt collector harassment

Financial hardships are stressful. Debt collector harassment has led to numerous personal bankruptcies, marital difficulties, job losses and other invasions of privacy. While persistent attempts to collect from you are legal, debtor harassment is illegal and not tolerated by the Federal Trade Commission.

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) was created to protect consumers from debt collector harassment by prohibiting certain behaviors. The Act prohibits debt collectors employed by third-party collection agencies from engaging in any form of debtor harassment, though The Act does not cover collectors hired by original creditors.

FDCPA requires debt collectors to:

- Identify themselves during every communication.
- Notify the consumer that the communication is from a debt collector and that any information obtained will be used in efforts to collect the debt.
- Give the name and address of the original creditor.

- Notify the consumer of their right to dispute the debt. The debt collector must provide this notice within five days of the initial communication.
- Provide verification of the debt. The consumer has the right to send a demand for verification within 30 days of receiving written notification of it. This preserves the right to dispute the debt and is best sent by registered or certified mail. The debt collector must either mail the requested information or cease all collection efforts.

File a lawsuit if the debtor has grounds for a lawsuit. A lawsuit can only be filed where the consumer lives or where the consumer signed the contract with the debt collector.

FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from:

- Calling outside the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the consumer’s local time zone, or calling repeatedly on the same day.
- Failing to cease communication upon request. Once you send a written notice that you are refusing to pay the debt or requesting an end to communications, the debt collector must cease communication.
- Communicating with consumers after request for validation, filing of bankruptcy, representation by an attorney, or after the debt collector has been advised that the employer prohibits such communication.
- Misrepresenting or deceiving.
- Publishing the consumer’s name or address on a bad debt list.
- Seeking unjustified amounts.
- Threatening arrest or legal action that is either not permitted or actually contemplated.
- Using abusive or profane language.
- Communicating with third parties.
- Contacting consumers using media that could be embarrassing.
- Reporting false information on a consumer’s credit report or threatening to do so in the process of collection.

If you are being harassed by a debt collector:

- Write the debt collector a letter requesting that they verify the debt.
- Write the debt collector a letter telling them to stop contacting you.
- File a complaint with the Federal

Trade Commission at 6<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580 or file online at [www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm). Include in your complaint the collection agency’s name and address, the name of the original creditor, the dates and times of all communications, the names of any witnesses, and copies of any other relevant documents.

You can be awarded up to \$1,000 plus attorney fees just because the debt collector violated the law. However, if the debt collector proves that the violation was unintentional and resulted from a “bona fide error,” they could escape liability.

## Zombie debts

“Zombie debts” are debts that have been resurrected from the dead. Debt collectors can buy debts that the original lender may no longer find it worth their while to collect or have written off. Or perhaps the debtor declared bankruptcy and forgot to put it in their petition.

These vulture companies buy the debt at about three percent of face value, so if the original debt is \$2,000 the new creditor will pay \$60 for it. If the new creditor gets the debtor to pay the \$2,000, or even a portion thereof, this is a huge profit for the debt collector.

If you are in this situation and make a payment, you may resurrect the debt. Protect yourself by doing the following:

- If they call do not engage, just ask for the debt collection company’s address. Then send them a certified letter within 35 days of their contact disputing that you owe the debt and ask them to prove that you owe it.
- Never acknowledge the debt is yours, since that could be used as an admission against you.
- If they send you a letter, keep it.
- Don’t contact or talk to the collector for any reason until you receive proof of the debt’s validity or a judgment against you, as well as the name and address of the original creditor if the debt was resold.
- Contact an attorney once you receive information about the debt to determine if the statute of limitations has passed – or if it’s even your debt at all.

Navigating through financial matters is complex. Make sure that you inform yourself well and contact an attorney on any legal matters that may arise.



## In the shadows of The Big House – Ken Magee’s magic shop

by Sue Budin  
Groundcover Contributor

I entered the magic shop of Ken Magee in downtown Ann Arbor not knowing what to expect in my interview with him. What made a person take up magic? How could a business like his survive in a town filled with skeptical academics? Who frequented his shop?

Ken greeted me with a handshake and a friendly smile and began to describe the twists and turns his life took to get him to this crowded space on East Liberty. Ken was born and raised in Ann Arbor. His father was a neurologist and his mother was a social worker. He attended Angell, Tappan and Huron High School. “The campus was my playground,” he said. “I was a bit of a hell-raiser but never crossed the line too far.”

He got his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Michigan State and a joint M.A. with the University of Michigan in exercise physiology. After college, he got a job as a police officer in Jackson, Michigan. He saw his fair share of crime in poverty-ridden areas of Jackson, a city close to the state prison.

One of the defining moments of his life came when he was on the force there and a fellow police officer died in his arms. He realized then that “we were not involved in a game of cops and robbers.” The experience gave him more respect for police officers and their profession. He also learned not to make judgments until he had all the facts and to “think outside the badge” – i.e., to put himself in the role of those he worked with; to think like a teacher, a banker, a young person on the streets.

Magee was then recruited to be a federal agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in Detroit. While he was there, he flew an undercover plane from South America to Grosse Ile, Mich. which carried 600 kilograms (over 1,200 lbs.) of cocaine. He also was involved in negotiations in the operations of the Medellín Cartel in Colombia. He applied for a transfer to Bogota and stayed for seven years. He attended a Spanish-language school while there. He worked in the jungles of Colombia and was involved in the capture of Pablo Escobar, a drug kingpin, and also captured Rene Benitez, who shot two DEA agents and was then extradited to the United States.

It was while he was working in Colombia that Magee studied magic from street performers, though he did not put it to any practical use till he returned to Ann Arbor years later. He met his future wife in Colombia and they had a daughter who is now 18. Although he is no longer married, he



Swallowing fire and working undercover are two of the many fascinating aspects of the unusual life of Ken Magee.

has maintained a good relationship with his daughter who is college-bound in the fall. He is proud of the fact that she wants to study international relations and possibly work for the CIA, a reflection of her respect for his work as an agent. Having a daughter also caused him to look at problems facing teens who are so vulnerable to drugs and the dangers of addiction. Magee’s father died of alcoholism and his older brother died of a heroin overdose – so he knows firsthand the tragedy of drug dependence.

Magee told me the theory of the “three-legged stool”: the legs representing enforcement, treatment and prevention. The seat is a circle of collaborative effort. A fourth leg, so often forgotten or dismissed, is education. Parents and other adults are the most important component in education, serving as role models and mentors.

After returning from Colombia, Magee took a management job with the DEA in Portland, Oregon and began working with drug prevention groups. He discovered there was a huge heroin and methamphetamine problem there. He would often tell parents in his talks before groups that “to be a good parent, be a good spy.”

After Portland, he was promoted to a job in Washington, D.C. where he was in charge of an intelligence unit investigating international drug organizations. After another move to the Northwest where he became more involved in drug prevention programs, he retired from the DEA and returned to Ann Arbor where he was appointed chief of police at the University of Michigan. While there, he brought more awareness to the problems of sexual assault on campus and developed a “10-Point Promise” to victims. Included were statements related to respect for victims and keeping them informed at all times

of the investigation.

Magee wanted to design an entertaining drug education program using his knowledge of magic and take it into the schools. He demonstrated one trick for me in which he took a piece of paper that represented a resume and talked about how it became shorter as you grew older because you removed those part-time jobs when you were in school. Then, he lit the paper and with a whoosh, it disappeared (or so I thought) into a Coke bottle, illustrating how your future could “go up in smoke” if you started taking drugs.

Magee’s store is half magic and half U-M football sports memorabilia, of which he has the world’s largest collection. In fact, 80 percent of the artifacts

at Schembechler Hall belong to Ken. He has been collecting this stuff since childhood. One example is a 1902 ticket stub to a game where “Hail to the Victors” was played for the first time. He says of his collection, “It was a labor of love and interest.”

Relevant to his interest in U-M football is his commitment to serving the community. A few years ago, he was watching a TV program on the Wounded Warriors Project, in which funds and services were provided for disabled veterans to attend NFL games throughout the country. Magee decided to start his own foundation to provide the same service to disabled police officers who were permanently disabled in the line of duty and to families of officers who were killed doing their job prior to achieving retirement status. Funds will be used for transportation to the game, tickets, and a tailgate picnic. He has started the foundation with his own money and has named it the Ken Magee Foundation for Cops.

In addition to this project, Magee has co-written two books with Jon M. Stevens, one already published called *The Little Brown Jug: the Michigan-Minnesota Rivalry*. The second, *The Game: the Michigan-Ohio State Rivalry*, will be published this fall. Proceeds will go to the foundation.

Ken will be closing his magic shop soon and moving on to other ventures, including teaching and involvement in social causes. His life has been all about being in the right place at the right time, with a bit of magic, a lot of hard work and an optimistic outlook thrown in.



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belongs to future generations...”

Pope Francis, On the Care of Our Common Home

#### Mass Schedule

**Saturday**

5:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12: p.m. & 5 p.m.

St Francis of Assisi Parish  
2250 East Stadium Blvd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 769-2550  
www.stfrancisa2.com



## Fun-raising for addiction recovery



Detroit comedian Andy Beningo headlines Laughing for a Cause on September 11 to benefit the Ann Arbor Women's Group.

by Claire Wagler  
U-M Student Contributor

For women recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction, it can be difficult to remain light-hearted and forge the strong relationships needed to remain sober. The Ann Arbor Women's Group, founded in 2007, helps keep women on the path to lasting sobriety through groups, retreats and other fun events focused on making recovery a communal rather than singular journey.

The organization also maintains an awareness that the kind of support it offers is often hard to achieve for women living on low incomes, so all of its events are free, low-cost or scholarship-based. Though the Ann Arbor Women's Group has already helped many in Washtenaw County, it seeks to increase awareness and support for its cause so the group can help even more women.

In honor of addiction recovery awareness month, the Ann Arbor Women's Group is having a fundraiser called Laughing for a Cause on September 11 from 7-9:30 p.m. at the 2/42 Community Church on 410 South Maple Road in Ann Arbor. The proceeds of this event will go toward the free childcare services

provided by the Group to help parents in recovery make time for meetings and other sobriety-related events. Detroit comedians Andy Beningo and Chris Young will entertain guests at the fundraiser, and tickets are available for \$15 per person either online or at the door. Free childcare will be provided at Laughing for a Cause, and the night will be full of clean humor and fun for both recovering addicts and the general public.

The Ann Arbor Women's Group is always looking for volunteers for its fundraisers and other needs. To find out more about volunteering, visit [a2womensgroup.org](http://a2womensgroup.org) or email [events@a2womensgroup.org](mailto:events@a2womensgroup.org).

If you are a woman in the Ann Arbor area who needs help gaining or maintaining lasting sobriety in a welcoming, supportive environment, go to [a2womensgroup.org](http://a2womensgroup.org) and send them a message via the Contact Us tab. You can also attend one of the weekly meetings held by the group on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. at the 2/42 Community Church on 410 South Maple or on Fridays from 7-9 p.m. at the Westside United Methodist Church on 900 South 7th Street in Ann Arbor.

## Kickin' it Old-School!

Start the new school year with old-school treasures. Find back-to-school bargains at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale, now at two locations!



\*Items shown are representative of typical sale items, not actual inventory.

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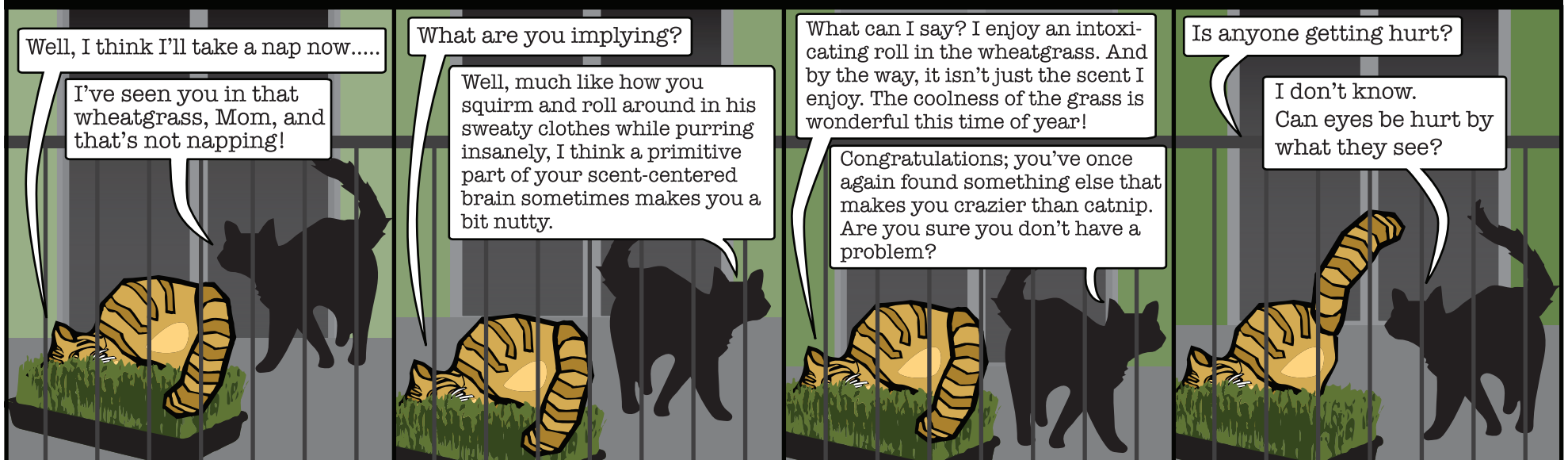
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Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor

[www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

**Sunday Worship**

8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.

## Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2012 & 2015





## Sudoku ★★★★★☆ 4puz.com

1	4		6				2	
				1	4			6
2		6						4
9			1					
8				3				5
					9			3
4						3		7
5			9	4				
	8				7		6	9

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Cryptoquote:

CTCNJJK RUF QZVTR SVAEJFGT  
KAC TAJIF LZRU RUF WFL  
SNVNPZOG NVF RUF AWFT  
RUNR LFVF CWT AJINEJF LZRU  
RUF AJP SNVNPZOG.  
— DAFJ N. ENVBFV

Clue:  $\mathfrak{R} = \text{I}$

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
[contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com)  
734-707-9210

### ACROSS

- Soft mineral
- Hastened
- "The \_\_\_\_\_ Four"
- Tommie, MLB centerfielder, and Tommie, NFL running back
- One once married
- "\_\_\_\_\_ seen better days"
- Realistic
- \_\_\_\_\_ light
- Beverages
- Seeker's quarries
- Destitute one
- Fundamentals
- Dangerous situation
- More humid
- Ear (Dutch)
- Russian rulers
- Performer's workplace
- High place
- Color
- Blemish
- At the front
- Diadem
- Family
- Jabbered
- Beginnings
- Tart
- Risers and treads
- South American carnivore
- Assemble
- City in Japan
- Artist's supplies
- Eastern philosophy
- Angry sound
- Robin Williams role
- "\_\_\_\_\_ to Joy"
- International corporation
- Obligation

### DOWN

- Small amount
- Long \_\_\_\_\_
- Actor Ayres
- Count of a sort
- State under oath
- Zadora and Toscana
- Vehicle's "black box" (abbr.)
- Alabama city

### Classical elements

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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	48							49				
50						51						
52				53		54					55	56
58				59					60			
61					62					63		

- Noise maker
- Claims
- King and queen
- Desist!
- Uses a broom
- Large European port city
- Atkins and South Beach
- Evidence
- Presidential vehicle
- Iraqi city
- Beverage
- Celtic priest
- Inhabitant of ancient America
- Canter and gallop
- Birds
- Are behind

- Sexy
- Gives
- Indiscrete
- Tennessee team
- Moved indirectly
- Pretended
- Irascible
- Liqueur
- Swiss capital
- Philosophical principle
- Undivided
- Bone
- Volleyball maneuver

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-665-6149

*Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office*

### Sunday Worship Times

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Sunday school at 10:15 am

Fellowship Hour follows each service

### Upcoming Community Events

- Sept. 10 (Thurs.) **Movie Night 6:45pm**, "Prayers for Bobby" (*call for details*)  
 Sept. 12 (Sat.) **German Pretzel Sales**, 10:30am-12 noon, \$1 or \$10 dozen  
 Sept. 13 (Sun.) **Flu Clinic**, 7:45am-10:15am, call for details  
 Sept. 13 (Sun.) **Sunday School Begins & Backpack Blessing**, 10am  
 Sept. 20 (Sun.) **Concert**, 2pm, Baldock Mountain Ramblers  
 Sept. 24 (Thurs.) **Movie Night 7pm**, "A Fish out of Water" (*call for details*)  
 Sept. 25 (Friday) **German Pretzel Sales**, 11am-2pm, \$1 or \$10 dozen  
 Sept. 27 (Sun.) **Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice**, 11:30 discussion  
 Oct. 2 (Fri.) **Sauerkraut Supper**, 6pm, buy tickets at church office  
 Oct. 4 (Sun) **Blessing of the Pets**, 2:30pm in our backyard.

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[bethlehem-ucc.org](http://bethlehem-ucc.org)



## Beyond broken bones – bringing compassion into pediatric orthopedics

by Anne Snabes  
Groundcover News Contributor

Dr. Michelle S. Caird works with kids – and their bones. Caird is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon. Some of the children she sees have short-term injuries like a broken arm from falling off the monkey bars, while others have chronic medical difficulties that last for many years.

“It’s really nice and rewarding because I can help take care of some kids who don’t need me for very long and some families who I can take care of for decades,” Caird said.

Caird is an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery in the section of Pediatric Orthopedics at the University of Michigan. As a surgeon at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor, she treats kids who have broken bones or other bone and joint problems. Caird spends two days a week operating on patients and two days a week seeing children in the clinic. She also spends time during the week carrying out research and teaching residents.

“I really like putting things back together, so when bones are broken I love to put them back together,” Caird said. Caird likes operating, but she also enjoys seeing her patients get better. “I’m always so happy when kids heal up and are doing well – that’s very rewarding.”

Caird said sometimes her patients are having a lot of trouble walking, but by aiding them with the tightness in their muscles, she can help them return to walking. She said the children have to work hard after their operation, and their families spend a lot of time in this endeavor. “To see them getting around again is just amazing,” Caird said.

Caird sees some patients who have a rare chronic medical condition called osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease. She said kids with this disease have bones that aren’t as strong as those of other children, so they break more easily. “I try to help them in the clinic, and in surgery, and also with research,” Caird said. Some children with osteogenesis imperfecta can play and move around like other kids their age, but they endure more fractures than their peers. Caird said other children with the disease fracture many bones, even while being born, and some of them can’t live long. There are also children in between these two groups that can’t walk a lot but can still participate in many activities at school.



Dr. Caird shows Eli Genisio an X-ray of his injury. Photo by Cara Genisio

Caird carries out research involving this condition. “We have models of osteogenesis imperfecta and we try to figure out how we can help kids with brittle bones not break quite so often,” Caird said. She explained that they test to see if medicine for osteoporosis can strengthen the bones of children with osteogenesis imperfecta. Caird has to see if it’s safe for kids to use medicine that is traditionally used on the elderly.

Caird has roots in surgery. Her father was a vascular surgeon and her grandfather was a urologist. “I couldn’t really imagine doing anything else,” Caird said.

When Caird was young, she learned about what a hospital is like by going with her father to work. “My favorite thing when I was little was to go on rounds with my dad on the weekends,” Caird said. “I always loved the hospital and the nurses, doctors, and patients were so nice. Patients really seemed to be helped by the surgeries, and that was so impressive to me.”

Caird began her professional journey as a student at the University of Michigan College of Engineering. “I studied engineering in undergrad, and so orthopedics makes sense in the same way – very mechanical,” Caird said. She subsequently attended U-M Medical School and did her residency at U-M as well.

Caird enjoys Ann Arbor. “There are

so many smart, inquisitive people around. That helps me to ask more questions and really try to be better at orthopedics,” Caird said. She is able to work alongside people in other fields, like law and engineering. “We have so many smart people in town that we can really collaborate on improving healthcare in lots of different ways,” Caird stated.

Caird is a member of the U-M Child Protection Team, working to identify when an injury is not accidental and is a result of child

abuse. She said law school students can advocate for these children through the U-M Law School advocacy clinics for individuals who aren’t able to represent themselves. Caird also carries out interdisciplinary work with engineers. She uses engineering methods in her research to see the state of bones that were treated with medication.

Working with medical students is another aspect of Caird’s work. She and Dr. Clifford Craig, another pediatric orthopedic surgeon, teach a short class for medical students about infection. Caird said their class describes how Civil War infections moved medicine forward, and they talk about how this connects to infections they see in children now. Caird also teaches medical students practical skills like how to tie surgical knots, and students can watch her in the clinic and the operating room.

Caird recently became the Orthopedics Residency Director. “I can really help influence and teach 40 residents in our program,” Caird said. “I would like to make a real impact there.”

Caird likes teaching residents surgical methods that are new to them. She said residents ask good questions. “Their great interest and questioning helps us to find what is known and what we don’t know in orthopedics,” Caird said. “Often, this type of questioning turns into research so we can try to find a good answer!”

Dr. Elizabeth King, a fifth-year orthopedics resident, works with Caird during the Pediatric Rotation of the Residency. Caird is a mentor for King. She said Caird taught her necessary skills in pediatric orthopedics and about being a compassionate doctor. “One thing that is really special about Dr. Caird is the way she relates to kids and their families, and especially kids with a lot of special needs,” King said. “She is warm and caring, and makes them feel very comfortable, and communicates very clearly with them.” Caird has taught King other important skills, such as how to be a leader during operations and how to speak up when she needs a tool like an X-ray.

Caird said orthopedics does not have many women and minority students. She wants to encourage individuals who aren’t thinking about orthopedics to try it. “We have a wonderful profession and it can only be better if we are more equal in our numbers of women and minority practitioners. That’s one of my big goals.”

She said it won’t be easy to make orthopedics more diverse. “For many years there have been stereotypes of big, strong men who do orthopedics,” Caird said. “I’m not a big, strong man, so I think that helps – being a role model of someone who is different than the stereotype.” Caird thinks women should be encouraged to enter science or math when they’re young, perhaps in middle school.

Caird’s patients often show great courage. Among her long-term patients are twins who have osteogenesis imperfecta. “They are amazing and inspiring,” Caird said, “And they do everything they can to keep moving and to get stronger and to be more independent.” She said they encounter challenges as their bones fracture. However, the twins are hard workers at school and have ambitious goals. Caird said the sister hopes to be a fashion designer, and the brother would like to be a pilot and possibly attend physician’s assistant school.

“It’s been so wonderful to work with them as they’ve been growing and watch them to go through high school,” Caird said. “I’m very hopeful for them in the future that they will accomplish all of these great goals.”



## Welcome back, students



Lit is talking with a Skyline High School senior about the realities of homelessness.

by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz  
Vendor #159

The summer is almost gone and the school doors swing open, inviting in new students for the upcoming year. Over the summer as I sold my paper, I made a concerted effort to inform students about the street paper concept and how it has rescued many people from homelessness.

The kids ranged in age from the earliest elementary to high school youth, representing families from various schools throughout the city and state – even the country. Their curiosity was not lost on me and I found that their interests often outweighed that of their parents. This was a good thing and within that I saw a beacon of hope that the next generation will provide answers to this problem that has escaped their parents.

As they return to the classroom, however, I fear that the topic of homeless-

ness will be missing from their curricula. If it is covered at all, it will be so glossed over that few will grasp its true meaning. For the future leaders to bring about change and solutions, it is crucial that their current studies reflect the realities of this contemporary crisis. From affordable housing to drug addictions, we need the bright minds of our youth to learn from past and present mistakes and help to correct the future as it relates to homelessness.

There is no curriculum that is exempt, as this issue pervades every discipline. Whether it be medicine, politics, business, or software design every child should be preparing to play a role in ending this problem. Some will enter school from homes, some will not be so fortunate. But school should be the leveling ground and a place where students from every age and background prepare to make a brighter future for our world.

## Meeting Cindy Williams

by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz  
Vendor #159

Actress Cindy Williams of *Laverne and Shirley* fame, was in town on a tour for her new book, *Shirley, I Jest*. Although I didn't have time to read it, her talk at the downtown library offered insight which suggests it will be a good read.

My decision to attend was impromptu and solely based on another Groundcover vendor informing me of it just 15 minutes before it was about to occur. So we sat together in the crowded room, somewhat in awe of being in same room with the latter half of *Laverne and Shirley*.

Plugging our street paper was our main goal and, almost as comical as the characters from the sitcom, we sat plotting scenarios of getting an interview and taking a picture with the star. I had no leftover funds from my daily sales, but since the other vendor works a second job, she bought the book which ensured us a place in line and a picture. (Truthfully, there is little doubt in mind that Cindy Williams would have taken a picture with us, anyway!)

But the highlight of the night was when I got a response to my question. The

street paper concept has only been around in the United States since 1989, shortly after the TV series ended. I asked if the working girls, *Laverne and Shirley*, would have bought the street paper if it had been in Milwaukee at the time. The answer was a resounding yes, accompanied by Cindy Williams' own recollection as a little girl of buying a paper and pencils from an old black man in the town where she grew up. This reinforced my thoughts that not enough can be said for interaction with and respect for people from all walks of life and economic circumstances.

We cannot assume that one business has less value than another. Each has its role. Our short little chat confirmed that Williams has bought and read a street paper since leaving the show. I had little doubt that she had. The visit to Ann Arbor proved that she not only is a great comedian, but has excellent taste in reading.

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Prospective volunteers welcome!



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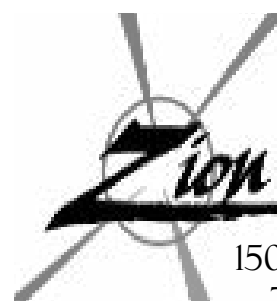
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**Tuesday**

Terrific Tuesday Worship • 7:30pm

**Wednesday**

Chapel Worship with Holy Communion • 10:00am

**Sunday**

Drive in Worship • 8:30am (all summer)

Blended Worship with Holy Communion • 9:30am

Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion • 11:00am



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## Lifelong learning for seniors

by Susan Harris  
Groundcover Contributor

Seniors like myself will be delighted to hear about the wide range of lectures, workshops, and study groups offered by U-M's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). In the past couple of years I've taken classes on astronomy, physics, personal finance, earth origins and history, and geology.

This fall, Richard Chase, one of my favorite teachers, is offering a new class called "The World's Greatest Geological Wonders." It is one of the five fall Science Study Group options and it will be held 3-5 on Wednesdays at Brookhaven Manor in Ann Arbor. The registration fee is \$40.

OLLI Study Groups cover topics from religion to Romance languages. In these small-group learning sessions, participants discuss issues, share knowledge, and grow in unexpected ways. A panel discussion entitled Homelessness in Washtenaw County is upcoming on November 17, 2015. It is part of the *After 5* Study Group.

Approximately 60 high-quality courses are offered each term (Fall and Winter/Spring/Summer), and last from one to 10 weeks or more. To participate in OLLI activities, individuals pay an annual membership fee of \$20. Additional fees may be required for participation in activities. No affiliation with U-M is required.

OLLI's unique Distinguished Lecture Series comprises nine lectures. Most are held monthly on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. This year's topics include current events in the United States and abroad, new DNA research, the search for family roots, and climate change. Each lecture is just the beginning; a stimulating question-and-answer period follows most sessions, and frequently there is an opportunity to join the speaker at a Dutch-treat lunch afterwards. The series cost is \$45.

Titles in this year's Thursday morning Lecture Series titles include "Indonesia: Culturally Diverse, Geographically Fragmented, Strategically Located," "Violence: Its Roots and Reasons," and

"The Power of the Liberal Arts." OLLI members can pay \$30 per 6-week session or \$125 for a pass admitting them to all five Thursday lecture series (a savings of \$25).

Registration is already underway for the Fall-Winter offerings. Individuals 50 and over can register for classes on the web at [olli-umich.org](http://olli-umich.org) or in person at the OLLI offices: 2401 Plymouth Road, Suite C (near North Campus). The phone number is (734) 998-9351, and the email address is [GerMedOll@umich.edu](mailto:GerMedOll@umich.edu).

See you this fall at OLLI!

## ENPACT makes an impact

continued from page 4

"We got the outcome we wanted, though," he reflected after the workshop. "We want an engaged group of participants who will go and influence others to become involved."

Brandon Robinson, who also attended the first ENPACT workshop, took the workshop's message to heart, and befriended AAPD Officer Corey Mills. Robinson came into the event apprehensive about law enforcement, but

"felt a connection" with Officer Mills. They continued their conversation from the workshop over lunch, and still communicate regularly.

"I hope that, through ENPACT, I can change [officers'] perspectives about African-American young men," Robinson said. "I think about Officer Mills when I think about law enforcement. I hope that the officers can look at [young African-American men] and think of me."



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—MICAH 6:8

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At the Y, we exist to strengthen community. Together with people like you, we nurture the potential of kids, help people improve their health, and provide opportunities to support our neighbors. So join our cause. And create meaningful change not just for your family, but also for your community.



## Cryptoquote Solution

Usually the first problems you solve with the new paradigm are the ones that were unsolvable with the old paradigm.

— Joel A. Barker

1	4	3	6	7	5	9	2	8
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Zucchini bread



by Liz Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

Mix dry ingredients together:

- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix remaining ingredients together until blended:

- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups grated zucchini (tightly packed in measuring cup)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups walnuts or pecans
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Combine mixtures in a large bowl. Pour evenly into 2 bread pans that have been greased and floured. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until a knife comes out clean.

Allow to cool before removing from pans.

Left: Vendor Robert Salo creates art collages like this from found objects.

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